

DDOT Says Farewell to PTSA's Carl Jackson

Several DDOT employees had mixed feelings on August 19 at a farewell luncheon for Carl Jackson. They were torn between offering congratulations because he accepted a position with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and bottling up feelings of sadness when they said goodbye to the quintessential professional.

Carl, the associate director of the Progressive Transportation Service Administration (PTSA), ended his two-year tenure at DDOT on August 22.

Several of his management-level colleagues and those on his PTSA team echoed each other at his celebratory lunch. Many commented on his effectiveness as a leader, his ability to mentor his team,

his calm and amiable manner, and his extensive 30-plus-year experience in railway and transit management.

"I'd like to thank Carl for his dedicated focus on the most important public transit initiative in DDOT's history—the DC Streetcar program," said Acting Director Matthew Brown, adding that Carl played a key role in expanding multimodal transit options in the city.

"He's very unassuming but is a very strong leader in how he chips away at issues," Matt added at the luncheon. "It's a testimony to your leadership and friendship, and we're going to miss you. I hope you come back for the first ride on the DC Streetcar."

These sentiments were echoed.

Comments about Carl at the Luncheon

"It was a pleasure to work with you," said Ralph Burns, associate director. "You've helped me to grow at DDOT."

"I appreciate the faith you've put in me by putting all those projects in my lap to manage," said Anthony Foster, citywide transportation planner.

"We spoke the same language coming out of MTA," said Steve Strauss, PTSA deputy associate director. "He's one of the

Photo by Christopher Quay



Carl Jackson receives a DC Streetcar model from Acting Director Matthew Brown on August 19.

nicest persons at DDOT and gave me a long leash to deal with my WMATA matters and Circulator matters."

"He took the time to learn each one of our personal and professional goals," said Circe Torruellas, citywide transportation planner, "and helped match that with the work we were doing here."

Carl's Parting Words

Carl was clearly touched by the outpouring of emotion. Madelyn, his wife of 34 years, was also on the phone listening to the tributes to her husband. She ex-

(Continued on page 2)



Carl and Circe enjoy the celebratory lunch on August 19.

Special Feature

SYEP Program Benefits DDOT Staff, Students



Charnita Walker speaks at the SYEP award ceremony on August 5.

Every year Charnita Walker, program assistant for DDOT's Human Resource Department, attends the Department of Employment Services Job Fair offered to thousands of District students for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Although the program is only six weeks of work for students, Charnita does not take this task lightly. She shuffles through thousands of students and hand picks 100 of the best students to work a summer tour at DDOT. Some students selected had worked for DDOT in previous years. Some had excellent writing skills, computer skills or other skills that DDOT valued. Others were college students that needed experiences that DDOT could provide. She then inter-

viewed each student and matched them to one of the many administrations of DDOT. This year Charnita's maneuvering opened opportunities that proved beneficial to both the students and DDOT.

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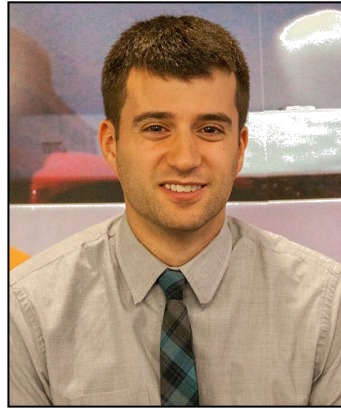
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Welcome to d.



Kipchogie Brooks **Roadway Maintenance** **Superintendent**

Let's welcome DDOT's newest Roadway Maintenance Superintendent Kipchogie Brooks. Kipchogie manages the maintenance and repairs of all streets that are not designated for complete reconstruction. What he loves most about his job is that he frequently gets opportunities to teach, learn new skills, and be part of an effort to improve the daily commute for the residents of DC. He said the most challenging aspect of his job is (wink-wink) leaving at the end of his shift.



Jonathan M. Rodgers **Transportation Management** **Specialist**

Please welcome Jonathan M. Rodgers to DDOT as a new transportation management specialist in PPSA. Jonathan has wanted to work at DDOT for a while. Since his first semester in graduate school he had hoped to work at DDOT, where he could combine his passion for transportation and public policy. He loves the challenge of contentious issues, such as meeting the increasing demands on public space. He also enjoys working with the seasoned experts here at DDOT. He plans to expand his knowledge base and enjoy the working experience.



Leutisha Stills **Wage Compliance Specialist**

Welcome Leutisha Stills to the DDOT family as a new equal employment opportunity specialist in the Office of Civil Rights. Leutisha previously worked at the U.S. Department of Transportation in her home state of California, but wanted to relocate to the DMV area. She has adjusted nicely to East Coast culture and the political climate in the area. What she enjoys most about her work is the assistance she can give small businesses—helping them understand government opportunities and how best to seize those opportunities to expand their business and create jobs.

What's News @DDOT

DDOT, Pepco to Host DC Plug Forum—DDOT and Pepco will host a second forum for the DC Power Line Undergrounding (DC Plug) to review specifics on the project proposal. **DC Plug** is a public-private partnership between DC government and Pepco that will lead to an undergrounding of power lines to help prevent prolonged electric service outages during significant weather events. The forum will be on September 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 441 4th Street NW, in the Old City Council Chambers on the ground floor. Follow this link to [register](#) or contact Ashley Blunt at (202) 724-3692 or dc.plug@dc.gov.

DDOT's Office of Communications to Launch New Service Request System—To better manage numerous requests for communications-based services at DDOT, the communications office is un-

dergoing a testing phase for its new Communications Help Desk, which is expected to launch in the new fiscal year. DDOT employees can request website updates, press releases, traffic advisories and other communications-related tasks through the new request system, which is easy to use, and similar to the IT Help Desk System. Questions, please email or see [Michelle Phipps-Evans](#).

DC Streetcar will be on Display at the H Street Festival—This year's H Street Festival on September 20 will feature the DC Streetcar along the tracks of H Street/Benning Road, which patrons can visit and learn more about DDOT and the streetcar initiative. The H Street Festival, which runs from noon to 7 p.m., is 10 blocks of food, art, music and festivities, from 4th to 14th Streets in Northeast.

Carl Jackson

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Carl's going-away gifts for years of service.

pressed her gratitude for the appreciation shown to him and their family.

Carl left with these parting words at the end of the celebration: "Consider everyone an ally. Don't fight among one another. You'll get your due according to your skills. I love you all."

—Michelle Phipps-Evans

Employee Spotlight

Matthew Marcou Promoted to Acting Associate Director

DDOT has named Matthew Marcou as the new acting associate director for Public Space Regulation Administration (PSRA).

A fourth-generation Washingtonian, Matthew has worked at DDOT for 10 years, during which he worked in the agency's Public Space Permit Office and the Policy Office for the Policy, Planning and Sustainability Administration. He has served as the deputy associate director of PSRA since the formation of the administration in 2011.

"Matthew is a high energy 'get it done' leader," said Deputy Director Jeffrey Powell. "This position will allow him to influence the entire agency."

My Summer Vacation

Matthew Marcou Revisits Mediterranean With Family

The editorial team is soliciting first-person accounts of your vacations to feature in the d. Report. We want to hear from you.

"I visited Greece, Turkey, and Italy on a 10-day cruise (July 22 to Aug. 1) with my mother, siblings and spouses. No grandchildren allowed. It was the trip of a lifetime for us and everyone had a wonderful time.

We saw ancient cities, famous sites, and small islands and villages. We stopped at Ephesus, Santorini, Simi, Florence/Pisa, and many other picturesque ports along the western coast of Italy. The trip was a return visit since my father and mother took us all to Europe when we were very young.



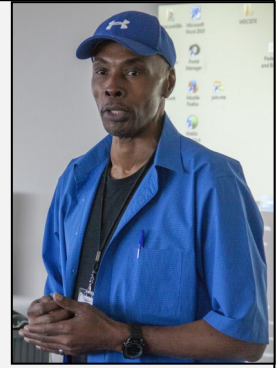
"I was checking out the ancient world's public space infrastructure." (L-R) Matthew is with his tour guide, Issy.

and Elliott Garrett, Chief of Public Space Inspections—kept it rolling while I was away. Go Team DOT!"



Newly appointed acting associate director, Matthew Marcou points to signs on his trip to Sicily, Italy, this past summer.

SYEP Program (Continued from page 1)



Customer Support Specialist Kevin Lilly mentored some of the SYEP participants in the DDOT Call Center.

Students were assigned to departments throughout DDOT: from the Street and Bridge Maintenance administration—where they worked with teams repairing the District's

streets—to learning hands-on skills for the digital age in the Information Technology department.

Michelle Simms, who leads the agency's call center, was charged with 13 students and ensured that they left DDOT with valuable lessons for the workplace, such as resume writing and customer service training.

"We wanted to give the students a sense of direction, an experience they could take with them, something they would remember years into their future," she said.

Of the 100 students selected to work for DDOT this summer, 69 successfully completed the program, many brimming with enthusiasm.

"I learned so much more than my last assignment," said summer student Jasmine Gladney, who helped DDOT staff its reception area on the 4th Floor of 55 M Street SE.

Charnita also hosted an emotionally charged closing ceremony for the SYEP students on August 5.

Reggie Sanders, DDOT's Director of Communications, was impressed.

"Wow! I've worked for a few agencies in my time and I can say without a doubt that I have never witnessed such dedication to SYEP like this," Reggie said.

As with many endings, there were smiles that lit the room and tears that hit the floor. It was difficult to tell who was proudest: this year's summer students or the DDOT employees who worked with them.

—Kevin Lilly

My Life Outside DDOT

A Celebrity in Plain Site: DDOT's Steve Roy



Steve Roy and the VYBE Band perform at Howard Theatre on August 29.

Steve Roy is a wage compliance specialist with DDOT's Davis Bacon Compliance Division. Fellow team members from DDOT would describe Steve as an unpretentious, hardworking, approachable guy—with a grand collection of baseball hats. He is known to walk up and have a casual conversation with anyone in the workplace; his persona at work is far from one that is commonly associated with celebrities and rock stars. But during the evening hours, this humble-mannered employee is known throughout the District as “Steve Roy: the smooth crooner of the VYBE Band.” Many DDOT employees are familiar with Steve’s musical talents, and his fan base in the District is especially strong.

Born into a family of musicians, Steve found inspiration for performing and singing from his sisters. He was a member of the band Suttle Thoughts before he joined the VYBE Band in January 2014. Heavily influenced by the “The Godfather of Go-Go” Chuck Brown, the VYBE band plays a compilation of R&B, Jazz and Top 40 hits. Steve and the VYBE band perform in venues across the District and also frequently perform the Miami club scene and on international cruise lines.

Besides performing with his band, Steve is currently working on releasing his first solo project. He attributes his individual musical styles to the musical influences of Stevie Wonder, Luther Vandross and Donnie Hathaway. To support DDOT’s rising star look for The VYBE Band on Facebook as he continues to delight audiences with his gift.

—Jelani Lattimore



DDOT IN THE NEWS

Wasim Raja explains the complexities of the traffic signal timing system with *Washington Post* videographer Jason Aldag. See full video story [here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

Michael
@mikeytheshow

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